

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

4

DATE: October 15, 1979

SUBJECT: Followup to OSHA Referral of "Anonymous Compliant Involving Agent Orange Disposal"

FROM: Kenneth S. Ritchey, Environmental Scientist, HAZM

TO: Mr. Robert L. Morby, Chief, HAZM

Site:	Syntex Verona
ID#:	MO0007452/54
Break:	1.6
Other:	0781
	10-15-79

In followup to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) referral of October 2, 1979 (Waste Management Section received 10/11/79), I contacted OSHA (Mr. Vernon A. Strahm and Mr. Charles Adkins) to request OSHA to ask the anonymous caller to contact EPA's "Action Line" on October 11, 1979.

[REDACTED]

I indicated to the caller that information I had indicated four disposal locations which could contain hazardous waste.

1. The Aurora Missouri City disposal area now known as "Baldwin Park"
2. A disposal area on company property (Syntex Agribusiness, Verona, Missouri)
3. Two disposal areas on unidentified local farms.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Question: I ask what generated the wastes and what was the source of this waste?

Answer: The material disposed on one occasion was generated when a line plugged in the North Eastern Pharmaceutical and Chemical Company (NEPACCO) process located on Syntex Agribusiness property in Verona, Missouri. The NEPACCO process was used in converting "TCB to TCP." The end product was hexachlorophene. The material in the process was liquid when warm but when cooled formed a solid. This is why the line plugged. This happened in 1970. When employees took down the line the material was spilled on the facility floor and corn cob meal was used to absorb up the material. This waste was shoveled into paper drums and metal cans. The cans were labeled cyanide. The drums were 35 gallon drums. The caller indicated they did not know the material could have contained dioxin and could have presented a hazard to their health.

[REDACTED]

00087

Question: [REDACTED]

Question: When did this line plug at the plant?

Answer: In 1970 - 1971

Question: Was this when wastes from NEPACCO were disposed?

Answer: Yes

Question: What quantity of waste over this time period were hauled out?

Answer: Several tons.

Question: How much material was disposed from this cleanup?

Answer: I really am not sure but would guess half a truck load of drums.

Question: Who hauled the material from the site?

Answer: Mr. Ronnie Milles was a NEPACCO Supervisor at the plant and he hauled this material and at times other materials in a dump truck to three different locations.

Question: The two farms and to what is now the Baldwin Park.

Answer: Yes

Question: Does Ronnie live in the area now?

Answer: Ronnie lives in Shell Knobe, Missouri.

Question: You indicated Syntex has a dump?

Answer: Yes, this is directly west of the plant in Verona. It is located on a hill due west and a little south of the plant. Syntex owns 160 acres. The dump is on the west side just above the Spring River on a hill - "bad material."

Question: [REDACTED]

Question: Have you ever observed any discharge from this dump?

Answer: No, but there seems to be less trout below the Syntex plant than there use to be.

00088

Question: What waste were disposed in Syntex's dump?

Answer: They disposed semi-liquid materials placed in plastic lined cans. They dumped out the linears and returned with the cans. Also disposed piping and other materials at this site.

Question: Where did the major part of NEPACCO's waste go?

Answer: The major part of NEPACCO's waste went to Baldwin Park in
and to the two farms.

Aurora

Question: Where are the three sites Ronnie hauled to?

Answer: Ronnie hauled material to the Baldwin Park.

Question: Where is the Baldwin Park?

Answer: It is in *Aurora*, Missouri (pop. 5359). This used to be a landfill but someone gave them money to cover it and make a park now.

Question: Where are the farms located?

Answer: These are two private farms: one is owned by James Denny (Denny) They dumped waste in a trench on this farm. I am not sure if the trench was ever covered. The other farm is near Mt. Vernon (pop. 2,600), but I do not know the name of the person who owns this place.

Question: Could you find out and could I call you back?

Answer: Yes, I work as a truck driver and don't normally get home until 8:00 in the evening.

Question: I'll call you on Wednesday evening after eight o'clock, if that's ok?

Answer: Agree.

Question: Do you believe the wastes disposed at these three locations contain dioxin?

Answer: I would guarantee these materials were chemicals and chemical wastes but would not guarantee dioxin was present.

Question: What types of material was dumped at:

Baldwin Park: Fiber drums containing - semi liquids and solids.

At the Farms: Drums and drums with plastic linears. They would dump the plastic linear and contents and return with the drums.

00089

Question: Do you know the specific locations:

Answer: I don't know the specific locations but Ronnie (Mills) knows all three places and could identify the locations.

Question: Do you know of any other locations:

Answer: No, but an old man in Aurora may know. The newspaper person at the Aurora Advertiser would have his name. The caller also indicated that old tanks and equipment could have been disposed under building V-13 at Syntex's Verona plant. Since 1974 or 1975 Syntex has been very careful what they dispose in the local landfill and what is dumped on site for disposal.

Question: How does this compare to the past?

Answer: Used to dump anything and everything but now separate and only take specific materials to a local landfill. Syntex has also had drums stacked on the paint grounds near the railroad tracks left of the Empire building. They cleaned up these drums this spring. Material(s) in the drums ate the drums up and spilled out on the ground.

Question: How many drums would you estimate were there?

Answer: 200 - 300 drums. The material was rusty red. The caller then described that Syntex was setting up to dispose of material stored in a tank contain dioxin on site. Also stated that Syntex had ask for volunteers to drum up this material in the past.

Question: Did people at the site know what was in the tank?

Answer: No, people didn't know what was in the tank. The caller also described a discharge at "agent orange." Two employees were monitoring a vat which separated agent orange from water. During the decoupling process the two employees had gone to sleep and allowed 1000 - 1500 gallons of orange to discharge into the plant's treatment lagoon and ultimately this material was discharged to the creek. This happened in 1969. The foliage down the creek was defoliated. The caller stated Godfrey Moll (Vice President and General Manager, Syntex Agribusiness) still doesn't know about this.

Question: Did you ever observe a fish kill?

Answer: No.

Question: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[illegible]

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Q. The caller was asked if he would sign a written disposition concerning the information provided?

A. Yes, if my name is kept confidential and not sued for liability.

The caller was thanked for the information provided and ask why he waited until now to come forth with this information. The answer was he had come forth now because of the television coverage he had watched concerning hazardous wastes.

00092